

Axis Deer Mitigation on the Island of Maui: Proposed Scope of Project

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Scoping Document: Axis Deer Mitigation Project on the Island of Maui

Introduction:

The purpose of this scoping document is to outline the scope, objectives, and key considerations for a project focused on assessing and implementing Axis Deer mitigation strategies on the island of Maui. The project aims to address the increasing population and associated ecological and economic impacts of Axis Deer on the island.

Project Objectives:

The primary objectives of the project are as follows:

- a. Assess meta data on the current population and distribution of Axis Deer on Maui.
- b. Assess meta data on the ecological impact of Axis Deer on native flora and fauna.
- c. Assess meta data potential economic and social impacts caused by Axis Deer.
- d. Develop and recommend effective mitigation strategies to manage the Axis Deer population.
- e. Raise awareness among local communities about the issue and the importance of deer management.

Scope of Work:

The project will involve the following activities:

- a. Population Assessment:
 - i. Conduct surveys and monitoring to estimate the current Axis Deer population size and distribution across Maui.
 - ii. Assess the factors contributing to the population growth, such as food availability and reproductive rates.
- b. Ecological Impact Assessment:
 - i. Evaluate the impact of Axis Deer on the native vegetation, including browsing and habitat degradation.
 - ii. Identify potential threats to native wildlife caused by Axis Deer, such as competition for resources or predation risk.
- c. Economic and Social Impact Analysis:
 - i. Assess the economic implications of Axis Deer, including damage to agricultural crops and vegetation.
 - ii. Investigate the social and cultural implications of Axis Deer management and community perspectives on deer-related issues.

d. Mitigation Strategy Analysis:

- i. Explore and evaluate various mitigation approaches, such as culling, fencing, fertility control, and public education.
- ii. Determine the most appropriate strategies based on their feasibility, effectiveness, and potential impact on the ecosystem and local communities.
- iii. Develop a comprehensive management plan outlining the recommended mitigation measures and their implementation timeline.

e. Submit recommendations for review and implementation:

- i. Recommend implementation of the described mitigation strategies, considering the logistics, legal requirements, and stakeholder engagement.

Key Considerations:

- a. Collaboration: Engage with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, conservation organizations, local communities, and landowners to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach to Axis Deer management.
- b. Ethics and Animal Welfare: Consider ethical concerns and animal welfare considerations in implementing deer mitigation measures, particularly in the case of culling or fertility control.
- c. Environmental Impact: Evaluate the potential environmental impact of mitigation strategies, such as fencing, to minimize unintended consequences on native wildlife and habitats.
- d. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of different mitigation approaches to assess their economic feasibility and determine the most effective use of resources.
- e. Public Awareness and Education: Develop outreach programs and educational materials to raise public awareness about Axis Deer-related issues, the importance of deer management, and the potential benefits of mitigation measures.

Conclusion:

This scoping document serves as a foundation for assessing and mitigating the Axis Deer population on the island of Maui. It outlines the project objectives, scope of work, key considerations, and timeline, providing a framework for further planning.